

## **Claim Amendments**

Claims 1-29 canceled.

30. (currently amended) A book cover formed from an elastomeric material, comprising: an outside surface adapted to generally cover the exterior surfaces of a book, said book having a spine with sides, a top edge and a bottom edge; and a first pocket portion and a second pocket portion, each pocket portion adapted to receive at least a portion of the covers of the book, wherein each pocket portion comprises a generally elliptically-shaped access slot having a top peripheral edge and a bottom peripheral edge, wherein the top peripheral edge of the generally elliptically-shaped access slot of the first pocket portion is attached to the top peripheral edge of the generally elliptically-shaped access slot of the second pocket portion by an elastomeric material, and wherein the bottom peripheral edge of the generally elliptically-shaped access slot of the first pocket portion is attached to the bottom peripheral edge of the generally elliptically-shaped access slot of the second pocket portion by an elastomeric material, and wherein the elastomeric material attaching the top peripheral edges folds over and covers the top edge of the spine of the book when the book is inserted into the book cover and wherein the elastomeric material attaching the bottom peripheral edges folds over and covers the bottom edge of the spine of the book when the book is inserted into the book cover.

31. (previously presented) The book cover of claim 30, wherein each access slot is adapted to be substantially aligned with and parallel to the spine of the book.

32. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the pocket portions are adapted to receive substantially all of the covers of the book.

33. (previously presented) The book cover of claim 30, wherein peripheral edges of the book cover are reinforced.

34. (previously presented) The book cover of claim 33, wherein said peripheral edges are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

35. (previously presented) The book cover of claim 34, wherein said peripheral edges are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

36. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein edge portions of the access slot are reinforced.

37. (original) The book cover of claim 36, wherein said edge portions are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

38. (original) The book cover of claim 37, wherein said edge portions are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

39. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is of unitary construction.
40. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is molded.
41. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is of substantially uniform thickness.
42. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein peripheral edge portions of the book cover have at least one groove adapted to secure the book cover around the book perimeter.
43. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of silicone rubbers and latex.
44. (canceled)
45. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual effect.
46. (original) The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover is colored.
47. (original) The book cover of claim 46, wherein the book cover is formed of a plurality of differently colored materials.
48. (original) The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover is transparent.
49. (original) The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover is opaque.
50. (original) The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover contains an image thereon.
51. (original) The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover contains a plurality of reflective particles.
52. (original) The book cover of claim 51, wherein the reflective particles are suspended in the elastomeric polymer material.
53. (original) The book cover of claim 51, wherein the reflective particles are imprinted on at least one surface of the book cover.
54. (previously presented) The book cover of claim 30, wherein at least one surface of the book cover is textured.
55. (original) The book cover of claim 54, wherein said texturing increases the grip of the book cover.

56. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual indicia.

57. (original) The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is waterproof.

Claims 58-114 are canceled

115. (canceled)

116. (currently amended) The book cover of claim 30415, wherein the elastomeric material attaching the top peripheral edges is selected from the group consisting of silicone rubbers and latex.

117. (canceled)

118. (canceled)

119. (currently amended) The book cover of claim 30418, wherein the elastomeric material attaching the bottom peripheral edges is selected from the group consisting of silicone rubbers and latex.

120. (canceled)